

WHAT PARENTS SAY  
ABOUT PEP

“I learned a lot of great information. I feel relieved and empowered and know I am not alone.”

“I feel so blessed that I was able to come to PEP. It has brought my husband and I so close and I feel we can really be a team and advocate for our child.”

“Life changing! I can’t even express how amazing and encouraged I feel.”

“Gained knowledge, encouragement and hope.”

“I loved that it was parent focused and we were encouraged to share our feelings as well as our knowledge.”

WHAT EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONALS SAY  
ABOUT PEP:

“I felt I was able to give some school side perspective as I visited with parents. It was also great to talk to parents about the IEP.”

“I was able to take my professional hat off and listen to what parents with a child with a disability go through from the day they learn about the disability.”

PLEASE COPY AND SHARE THIS  
BROCHURE WITH PARENTS OR  
EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS WHO  
MAY BENEFIT FROM ATTENDING PEP.

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CAPABLE PARENTS  
&  
CARING PROFESSIONALS

COMMENTS SHARED ABOUT THE  
INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS AT PEP:

THE GRIEVING CYCLE:

“Grieving is an emotional process so it was good to have the “words” put to the process. I could identify with the presenters even though our child has a different disability.”

IEP/IFSP PROCESS:

“The presenter did an excellent job covering all aspects of the IEP/IFSP process.”

BUILDING POSITIVE PARENT/SCHOOL  
PARTNERSHIPS:

“I liked that Building Positive Parent/School Partnerships was taught by parents and they shared from their own experiences.”

SIBLINGS:

“It was great to hear these siblings share what they thought and felt about their family life.”

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

“Very helpful to have all the products in the room.”

PEARLS OF WISDOM:

“Wonderful and touching stories of families with children that have disabilities. Thanks for your wisdom.”

CONFERENCE  
SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 8

Registration (5:00 p.m.)  
Dinner  
Welcome  
Discussion Group

Friday, March 9

Breakfast  
The Grieving Cycle  
Discussion Group  
Lunch  
The IFSP/IEP Process  
Working Together: Building Positive  
Parent–School Partnerships  
Dinner (on your own)  
Evening free to socialize, network and relax

Saturday, March 10

Breakfast  
Concurrent Sessions

- Assistive Technology for Students with Special Needs
- Estate Planning for Special Need Trusts
- For Men Only
- The Mediation Process
- Siblings
- Transition
- You are Your Child’s Best Advocate

Lunch  
Discussion Group  
Pearls of Wisdom  
Closing and Evaluations (3:30 p.m.)

PEP

PARENTS  
ENCOURAGING  
PARENTS

March 8-10, 2007

Midtown Holiday Inn  
Grand Island, Nebraska

Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special needs? Does your child have an IFSP or an IEP? Then this conference is for you!

NO REGISTRATION FEE

Lodging and most meals provided



# WHAT IS PEP?

The purpose of PEP is to bring parents of children with disabilities together in an accepting and confidential environment, giving them the opportunity to share ideas, feelings and common concerns, and to obtain information on parenting and educating a child with a disability. A major objective of the weekend is to help parents realize that each is doing the best he/she can do at this time. By the end of the conference, parents will go home with renewed energy, spirit, hope and a desire to work closely with professionals who serve their child so that every child can experience the fullest life.

# WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This conference is open to all Nebraska parents who are raising a child with a verified disability. The child with the disability must have either an active IFSP or IEP.

A small number of openings are reserved for education professionals who serve children with disabilities in local school districts. Professionals will experience PEP from a parent perspective.

Enrollment is limited to 100 participants and registration is on a first come, first serve basis.

# HOW DO I REGISTER?

To register, first read the Guidelines for Participation in the PEP Conference. Then complete and return the conference registration form. Confirmation will be mailed to you and a hotel room will be reserved in your name. **Do not** register with the hotel directly. For further information, call Ann Figard at the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Populations Office, at 402-471-2471 (Voice/TDD).

PEP begins March 8, 2007, with registration at 5:00 p.m. CST, followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., and ends March 10, 2007, at 3:30 p.m. CST.

# GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

■ **For married couples, both husband and wife are required to register and attend the conference.** The greatest benefits are gained when parents experience PEP together.

■ **Single parents are welcome to attend PEP.** A support person may accompany a single parent provided this adult shares responsibility in raising the child, is actively involved in the child’s educational program and is willing to fully participate in PEP.

■ **Please make your own childcare arrangements as childcare is not provided at PEP.** Participants will gain the maximum benefit without the disruption of children. No children are allowed to stay at the hotel or attend PEP sessions.

■ **Participants must attend the entire conference and cannot be accepted on a part-time basis.**

■ **Dinner on Thursday, breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday, and lodging will be provided.** Dinner on Friday is on your own. Transportation costs to and from PEP will not be reimbursed.

■ **Dress for the entire conference is casual.**

■ **Participants are responsible** for any physical damage to the hotel’s property as a result of misuse or recklessness, as well as charges for telephone calls or other incidentals.

■ **Once you have registered for PEP, you are expected to attend because the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Populations, has financially committed to the hotel for your room and meals.** If an emergency arises that prevents you from attending PEP, please notify us at (402) 471-2471 immediately so we can cancel your reservation and allow others to register.

# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

PARTICIPANT 1: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

FOR PARENT:

Marital Status:      ☐ Married      ☐ Single  
Relationship to Child with Disability:    ☐ Parent              ☐ Step Parent      ☐ Foster Parent  
                                                                 ☐ Guardian      ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

FOR PROFESSIONAL:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Birth to Age 5              ☐ Elementary              ☐ Secondary

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: NE      ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

List Disability and Age of Your Child(ren) with an IFSP/IEP:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ **I cannot attend. Please put me on next year’s mailing list.**

PARTICIPANT 2: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

Relationship to Participant 1:      ☐ Spouse      ☐ Significant Other      ☐ Support Person  
Relationship to Child with Disability:    ☐ Parent              ☐ Step Parent      ☐ Foster Parent  
                                                                 ☐ Guardian      ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDED:**

☐ Non-Smoking Sleeping Room    ☐ Accessible Sleeping Room  
☐ Language Translator: (language) \_\_\_\_\_    ☐ Signing Interpreter  
☐ Dietary \_\_\_\_\_    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I/WE UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS (PEP) CONFERENCE.**

Participant 1 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Participant 2 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO: Ann Figard, Special Populations Office, Nebraska Department of Education, P.O. Box 94987, Lincoln, NE 68509-4987**